

ATTACHMENT SS2

REGION 2 SENSITIVE SPECIES EVALUATION FORM

Species: ***Onoclea sensibilis* L. sensitive fern**  
 SYNONYM: *O. sensibilis* var. *obtusilobata* (Schkuhr) Torr.

Criteria	Rank	Rationale	Literature Citations
1 Distribution within R2	B	Known from scattered populations from sw ¼ and se-most SD, s through n ½ and se ¼ of NE, and e ½ of KS. Reported from CO on the basis of a single historic collection and believed by Weber & Wittman to be extinct in that state. [Vouchers at KANU from Douglas Co, CO; 14 cos in e KS; Brown, Cherry, Howard, Holt, Loup, and Richardson Cos, NE; and Custer and Pennington Cos, SD.] Not reported from WY, but perhaps to be sought in Crook Co. Status: G5; CO SX. Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brooks 1991</li> <li>• Freeman in prep.</li> <li>• Great Plains Flora Association 1977</li> <li>• Van Bruggen 1976</li> <li>• Weber &amp; Wittman 2001</li> </ul>
2 Distribution outside R2	C	Very broadly distributed, range mapped by Johnson from throughout e ½ of the US (excluding s ½ of FL) and se ¼ of Canada. Also reported from e Asia.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Johnson 1993</li> </ul>
3 Dispersal Capability	B	Evaluator was unable to find any direct information about species' dispersal capability. <i>Onoclea</i> has very light spores that may be dispersed over very long distances. Species' distribution is probably largely limited by habitat requirements.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	
4 Abundance in R2	B	Observation of herbarium specimen labels at KANU suggests that species is often locally abundant where encountered in e R2. Evaluator is unaware of species' abundance in w part of region; however, Johnson reports that species "has a tendency to spread rapidly and become weedy."  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Johnson 1993</li> </ul>
5 Population Trend in R2	D	Evaluator was unable to find any information about population trends within R2. Weber & Wittman report that species has probably been extirpated from CO.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weber &amp; Wittman 2001</li> </ul>
6 Habitat Trend in R2	B	Reported from a broad array of wet habitats, including low areas in prairies, marshes, swamps, low woods and thickets, and wet ditches; often on sandy soil. Where populations occur in openings and grasslands, they have undoubtedly experienced loss of natural habitat from draining and conversion to cropland. However, species is opportunistic and comparatively weedy. Evaluator has observed it to colonize roadside ditches and other man-made wetlands in e KS. Though species is presumably historically rare in R2, it may be able to compensate for loss of limited natural habitats by colonizing new, artificial ones. Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ostlie et al. 1997</li> </ul>

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7 Habitat Vulnerability or Modification	B	Reported from a broad array of wet habitats, including low areas in prairies, marshes, swamps, low woods and thickets, and wet ditches, often on sandy soil. Where populations occur in openings and grasslands, they have undoubtedly experienced loss of natural habitat from draining and conversion to cropland. However, species is opportunistic and comparatively weedy. Evaluator has observed it to colonize roadside ditches and other man-made wetlands in e KS. Though species is presumably historically rare in R2, it may be able to compensate for loss of limited natural habitats by colonizing new, artificial ones. Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ostlie et al. 1997</li> </ul>
8 Life History and Demographics	B	Strongly rhizomatous fern. Sterile leaves appearing in early spring; sporophylls appearing in mid summer. Evaluator was unable to find other information about species' life history.  Confidence in Rank <b>High</b> or <b>Medium</b> or <b>Low</b>	

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 Date: 01/03/02

**National Forests in the Rocky Mountain Region where species is KNOWN (K) or LIKELY (L)<sup>1</sup> to occur:**

<u>Colorado NF/NG</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Kansas NF/NG</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Nebraska NF/NG</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>South Dakota NF/NG</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>	<u>Wyoming NF/NG</u>	<u>Known</u>	<u>Likely</u>
Arapaho-Roosevelt NF			Cimmaron NG			Samuel R. McKelvie NF		X	Black Hills NF	X3		Shoshone NF		
White River NF						Halsey NF		X	Buffalo Gap NG			Bighorn NF		
Routt NF						Nebraska NF			Ft. Pierre NG			Black Hills NF		X?
Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, Gunnison NF						Ogalala NG						Medicine Bow NF		
San Juan NF												Thunder Basin NG		
Rio Grande NF														
Pawnee NG														
Pike-San Isabel NF		X2												
Comanche NG														

2 KANU catalog # 199696: CO, Douglas Co: 8 mi SW Sedalia along Hwy 67 near Papoose Club, Elev 7000 ft, 17 Jul 1948, W.A. Weber 4272. Weber & Wittman (2001) believe species to be extinct in state.

<sup>1</sup> Likely is defined as more likely to occur than not occur on the National Forest or Grassland. This generally can be thought of as having a 50% chance or greater of appearing on NFS lands.

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- 3 KANU catalog # 199747: SD, Custer Co: near Custer, Elev 4500 ft, 15 Jul 1939, *E.L. Bennett 1276*; KANU catalog # 199748: SD, Custer Co: Sylvan Lake, 28 Jun 1966, *S. Stephens 6016*; KANU catalog # 199745: SD, Pennington Co: 6 mi E Sheridan Lake, bank of Spring Creek, 17 Jul 1966, *S. Stephens 7105*; KANU catalog # 199749: SD, Pennington Co: Keystone, 31 Jul 1968, *A.J. Petrik-Ott 793*; KANU catalog # 199750: SD, Wildlife preserve 10 mi S Keystone, Pennington Co: Black Hills NF, 2 Jul 1966, *T.B. Croat 2440*.

### REFERENCES

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- Johnson, D.M. 1993. *Onoclea*, p. 251 in Flora of North America Editorial Committee, *Flora of North America North of Mexico, Vol. 2: Pteridophytes and Gymnosperms*. Oxford University Press. New York, New York. xvi + 475 pp.
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- Weber, W.A. and R.C. Wittman. 2001. *Colorado Flora: Eastern Slope* (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). University Press of Colorado. Boulder, Colorado. xl + 521 pp.